

§ 210.8

(f) A financial institution shall immediately return to the Federal Government through the Federal Reserve Bank any payment received by the financial institution:

(1) After termination of the enrollment pursuant to § 210.4(c)(2) and before the execution of a new enrollment;

(2) After termination of the enrollment pursuant to § 210.7(c) has become effective;

(3) After the financial institution learns of the death or legal incapacity of the recipient, or the death of the beneficiary, of a benefit payment, regardless of whether or not notice has been received from the Federal Government; or

(4) After the closing of the recipient's account.

(g) A financial institution to which a payment is sent under this part does not thereby become a Federal Government depository and shall not advertise itself as one because of that fact.

(h) If any change in account numbers permitted by § 210.4(f) is made by a financial institution, the financial institution shall be liable to the recipient for any lost or late payment caused by the financial institution's actions in processing the change.

(i) Each financial institution by its action of handling a payment under this part shall be deemed to warrant to the Federal Government that it has handled the payment in accordance with the requirements of this part. In addition to the liability which may be imposed pursuant to § 210.11, if the foregoing warranty is breached, the financial institution shall be liable to the Federal Government for any loss sustained by the Federal Government, but only to the extent that the loss was the result of the breach. Except as provided in this section §§ 210.10(b) and 210.11, a financial institution shall not be liable under this part to any party for its handling of a payment.

[52 FR 2406, Jan. 22, 1987, as amended at 54 FR 20570, May 12, 1989]

§ 210.8 Prenotification.

(a) Regardless of whether it has participated in an enrollment, a financial institution's acceptance and handling of a prenotification or a payment issued pursuant to this part shall con-

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stitute its agreement to the provisions of this part.

(b) At the discretion of the Service, a prenotification may be originated for any ACH payment.

(c) The financial institution shall respond to the prenotification message by midnight of the banking day following the banking day of receipt of such prenotification if the information contained in the message does not agree with the corresponding record of the financial institution, or if for any reason the financial institution will not be able to credit the payment in accordance with this part.

(d) If a financial institution does not respond to a prenotification message within the specified time period, the financial institution shall be deemed to have accepted the prenotification and to have warranted to the Federal Government that it shall make the payment available on time to the account specified in the prenotification.

[54 FR 20570, May 12, 1989]

§ 210.9 Timeliness of action.

If, because of circumstances beyond its control, action by the Federal Government, a Federal Reserve Bank, or a financial institution is delayed beyond the time prescribed for the action (including the payment date) by this part, by the operating circulars of the Federal Reserve Banks, or by applicable law, the time within which the action shall be completed shall be extended for such time after the cause of the delay ceases to operate as shall be necessary to take or complete the action, provided the Federal Government, the Federal Reserve Bank, or the financial institution exercises such diligence as the circumstances require.

[52 FR 2406, Jan. 22, 1987, redesignated at 54 FR 20570, May 12, 1989]

§ 210.10 Liability of, and acquittance to, the United States.

(a) The United States shall be liable to a recipient for the failure to credit the proper amount of a payment to the appropriate account of the recipient as required by this part. This liability shall be limited to the amount of the payment.

(b) The United States shall be liable to the financial institution, up to the amount of the payment, for a loss sustained by the financial institution as a result of its crediting the amount of the payment to the account specified in the payment instruction, if the financial institution has handled the payment in accordance with this part. The foregoing does not extend to benefit payments received by the financial institution after the death or legal incapacity of the recipient or death of the beneficiary, in which event § 210.11 shall govern.

(c) The crediting of the amount of a payment to the appropriate account of a recipient on the books of the appropriate financial institution shall constitute a full acquittance to the United States for the amount of the payment.

[52 FR 2406, Jan. 22, 1987. Redesignated at 54 FR 20570, May 12, 1989]

§ 210.11 Fraud.

(a) The False Claims Act, 31 U.S.C. 3729, *et seq.*, provides for the recovery of damages and a civil penalty from any person who knowingly presents to the Federal Government, or causes to be presented, a false or fraudulent claim for payment, or uses a false record or statement in connection with such a claim. In addition, criminal penalties are provided in 18 U.S.C. 1001 for knowingly making false or fraudulent statements or representations to agencies of the Federal Government, and in 18 U.S.C. 1002 for knowingly possessing false documents for the purpose of enabling another to receive a payment from the Federal Government. These provisions are in addition to the Federal Government's remedies under common law.

(b) A financial institution shall verify the identity of any person who initiates and executes an enrollment through such financial institution. The Federal Government shall verify the identity of any person who presents an enrollment to the Federal Government without prior review or execution by a financial institution. A financial institution that executes an enrollment in which the recipient's or beneficiary's signature is forged or other information is falsified shall be liable to the Federal Government for all payments

made in reliance thereon, except for the case where the beneficiary was deceased at the time the recipient executed the enrollment and if the financial institution had no knowledge of the beneficiary's death. However, once the financial institution has provided written or electronic notice to the program agency that a payment certified by the program agency has not been received by the correct recipient or beneficiary, it shall not be liable for any payments based on the forged, false, or fraudulent information which are certified for payment after the date such written or electronic notice is received by the program agency.

[52 FR 2406, Jan. 22, 1987. Redesignated and amended at 54 FR 20570, May 12, 1989; 54 FR 50618, Dec. 8, 1989]

Subpart B—Repayment of Benefit Payments

SOURCE: 52 FR 2406, Jan. 22, 1987, unless otherwise noted. Redesignated at 54 FR 50618, Dec. 8, 1989.

§ 210.12 Death or legal incapacity of recipients or death of beneficiaries.

(a) A financial institution shall be liable to the Federal Government for the total amount of all benefit payments received after the death or legal incapacity of the recipient or the death of the beneficiary, except as provided in paragraph (f) of this section. However, a financial institution may limit its liability if the financial institution did not have knowledge of the death or legal incapacity at the time of the deposit or withdrawal of any of the benefit payments made after the death or legal incapacity, and if it fulfills the requirements of this section and those of §§ 210.12 and 210.13.

(b) Except as provided in paragraph (f) of this section, if limitation of liability is available to a financial institution under this part, the amount of its liability shall be:

(1) An amount equal to the amount in the recipient's or beneficiary's account as defined in § 210.12(b)(2)(i), plus.

(2) An amount equal to the benefit payments received by the financial institution within 45 days after the death or legal incapacity of the recipient or the death of the beneficiary; *Provided,*